



Media Release

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To: All Media

From: Tazewell County Health Department
Kim Litwiller 309 929-0395

For Immediate Release

Norovirus Determined as Illness Impacting Washington Monical's

In cooperation with state health officials, the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) has been monitoring an illness outbreak associated with Monical's Pizza in Washington. To date, 3 laboratory-confirmed cases of norovirus infection have been identified. Dates of illness onset range from November 21 to November 26, 2022. An epidemiological investigation conducted by TCHD has implicated high-touch surfaces as the vehicle of transmission. TCHD is continuing to interview restaurant patrons who are reporting illness. Individuals who ate at the Washington Monical's location from November 21 to November 26 and became ill are encouraged to complete [TCHD's online food-borne illness form](#).

Following the initial investigation, Monical's voluntarily closed. This allowed time to perform additional aggressive cleaning, discard all prepared foods, reinforce training with staff on proper food handling, and reporting symptoms of illness. Monical's reopened on Tuesday, November 29, following an inspection by TCHD on Monday, November 28

Monical's quickly reached out to TCHD for guidance upon receiving reports of ill patrons. Monical's has followed all guidance throughout this investigation and has actively maintained open lines of communication with health department staff.

TCHD encourages residents to take preventative measures to protect themselves and their families. Wash your hands for a full 30 seconds, stay home if you're sick, and clean surfaces around your home with the proper products.

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